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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00726 080817Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------013837 080820Z /14
P 080600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7792
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0726

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: CONA'S VIEWS

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0709, (B) STATE 53341

1. I REVIEWED THE MALTA MEETING WITH CHONA AND BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON OUR THINKING ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL B, TO ALL OF WHICH HE REACTED POSITIVELY. HE REPEATED AND ELABORATED ON MANY OF THE POINTS MADE IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ALLINSON AND ME LAST NIGHT. HE REITERATED THE VIEW THAT ZAMBIA'S AIMS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WERE CONFINED TO A REAFFIRMATION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, NOT ONLY BY THE UK AND US, BUT BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF. HE
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AGREED CONDEMNATION WAS NOT NECESSARY SO LONG AS WE MADE CLEAR THAT WE BELIEVED THAT THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT FELL SHORT OF A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

2. CHONA WAS CONVINCED THAT THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT WOULD SOON BEGIN TO FALL APART. THEY WERE ALREADY CALLING IT A "DRAFT AGREEMENT." THE NATIONALISTS WOULD BEGIN INTERPRETING

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IT ONE WAY AND SMITH ANOTHER, AND SOON THEY WOULD BEGIN
DENYING THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO ANYTHING. THE THING TO
DO NOW, CHONA SAID, WAS GO BACK TO MALTA, AND START OFF
FROM THERE. HE HIMSELF WAS WILLING TO BECOME INVOLVED
AGAIN IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN AN EFFORT
TO ENCOURAGE AGREEMENT. HE HAD NOT, HE SAID, DISCUSSED
THE DETAILS WITH NKOMO AT ANY TIME RECENTLY, AND HE ASKED
FOR A COPY OF THE MALTA DOCUMENTS.

3. CHONA ONLY HALF SMILED WHEN HE CLAIMED THAT ZAMBIA
HAD REALLY DONE A GREAT FAVOR FOR US BY WITHDRAWING FROM
THE DISCUSSION& DURING THE LAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS. AS
A RESULT OF ZAMBIA'S ABSENCE, TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE HAD
STEPPED INTO ITS PLACE AS SUPPORTERS FOR A MODERATE,
NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN RHODESIA.

4. CHONA SAID HE THOUGHT A MEETING IN NEW YORK OF THE
NATIONALISTS WOULD BE A USEFUL STEP, BUT WAS HARD TO MOVE
FROM A POSITION THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON THE AAP.

5. IT WAS CLEAR THAT CHONA HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH
THE PRESIDENT DURING THE MORNING. HE MADE MANY REFERENCES
TO THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE US IN KEEPING THE BRITISH ON
THE TRACK AND TO THE SUSPICION WHICH THE ZAMBIANS HAVE HELD
ALL ALONG OF THE BRITISH ROLE. THESE REMARKS, HOWEVER, WERE
MORE THAN USUALLY TEMPERED, PROBABLY OWING TO ZAMBIAN HOPES
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FOR UK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC CRISIS.
LOW

NNN

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